

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11, 12, and 14 are pending and under consideration. Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 14 have been amended. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found in the claims as originally filed. This amendment is believed to place the application in condition for allowance, and entry therefore is respectfully requested. In the alternative, entry of this amendment is requested as placing the application in better condition for appeal by, at least, reducing the number of issues outstanding. Further reconsideration is requested based on the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Response to Arguments:

The Applicants appreciate the consideration given to their arguments. The Applicants, however, are disappointed that their arguments were not found to be persuasive.

The final Office Action responds to Applicants argument that "Kaiser et al. does not deal with miniaturized drawings and, therefore, has no capacity or capability of indicating mutual relationships among the displayed circuit diagrams as in the present," in Item 3 at page 3 by referring to the disclosure in Kaiser of an element numbered 22 in FIG. 2 and the discussion at col. 5, lines 59-66. This is submitted to be inapposite.

In particular, Kaiser discloses "symbol 22 for the component is displayed in the display portion 18b adjacent to the path portion." (col. 5, lines 6-7). While unclear, the "component" presumably is the "decoder found in Sheet 1 a file name ADD-DET." (see col. 5, lines 2-4). The symbol 22 has no apparent correlation to any miniaturized drawing or circuit diagram much less any "mutual relationships among the displayed circuit diagrams..." as in the present invention.

Moreover, whereas an individual one of display portions 18a, 18b, 18c... in which respective "signal path portions of the signal path 2" are displayed, may be viewed on an enlarged scale in windows 34a, 34b, there is no control by a user of the system of Kaiser with regard to how, or in what order, the display portions are arranged in those portions 18a, 18b... of the context window 16 - - which, instead, is predetermined.

Thus, the present invention readily distinguishes over Kaiser. For example, claim 1, recites means for creating an inter-drawing connection diagram file..." which is not disclosed by Kaiser since, in Kaiser, the inter-drawing connection of display portions 18 a, 18b, ... are predetermined by the pre-established definition of the "critical path." It follows that nothing in Kaiser et al. "describes relations of mutual connections between a plurality of drawings" as defined in claim 1, since the "relations" in Kaiser et al. are predetermined by the critical path.

Further, since Kaiser. does not create any "inter drawing connection diagram file," Kaiser et al. does not have any element corresponding to the second paragraph of claim 1, of "means for indicating, on one screen, a plurality of the drawings miniaturized according to the description in the inter-drawing connection diagram file which has been created."

Further reconsideration is thus requested.

Objections to the Specification:

The Specification has been objected to for various informalities. Appropriate corrections were made. The Examiner's suggestions are appreciated. The reference to Fig. 10 at page 11, line 28, however, is submitted to be correct, so that was not changed. Fig. 10, in particular, is based on the inter-drawing connection diagram depicted in Fig. 9. Fig. 11 includes 4 drawings A to D, and Fig. 12 is derived from Fig. 11 based on the inter-drawing connection diagram. Withdrawal of the objection is earnestly solicited.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1-8 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,970,664 to Kaiser et al. (hereinafter "Kaiser"). The rejection is traversed to the extent it would apply to the claims as amended.

The second clause of claim 1 recites:

A means for creating an inter-drawing diagram file which describes interrelation in a plurality of drawing sheets.

Kaiser neither teaches, discloses, nor suggests "a means for creating an inter-drawing diagram file which describes interrelation in a plurality of drawing sheets," as recited in claim 1. In Kaiser, rather, the screen display includes a path context window for displaying a signal path, not "a plurality of drawing sheets," as recited in claim 1. In particular, as described in the Abstract of Kaiser:

A screen display includes a path context window for displaying a signal path in its entirety apart from the schematic sheets on which the path portions appear. The window contains multiple display portions each graphically displaying a path portion appearing on a separate schematic sheet.

Since, in Kaiser, the screen display includes a path context window for displaying a signal path, Kaiser cannot show "a means for creating an inter-drawing diagram file which describes interrelation in a plurality of drawing sheets," as recited in claim 1.

The third clause of claim 1 recites:

Claims 2 through 8 depend from claim 1 and add further distinguishing elements. Claims 2 through 8 are thus also submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2 through 8 is also earnestly solicited.

A hierarchic symbol drawing means for drawing by dividing said hierarchic symbols.

22

To assist the user in determining that this chip is the source of the path portion, a symbol 22 for the component is displayed in the display portion 18b adjacent to the path portion.

Since, in Kaiser, symbol 22 is for the component displayed in the display portion 18b adjacent to the path portion, Kaiser has no need for a "hierarchic symbol drawing means for drawing by dividing said hierarchic symbols," as recited in claim 14. Claim 14 is submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 14 is earnestly solicited.

Claims 9, 11 and 12:

Claims 9, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,218,551 to Agrawal et al. (hereinafter "Agrawal"). The rejection is traversed to the extent it would apply to the claims as amended.

Claim 9 recites:

Symbol selecting means for selecting symbols to be moved and positions to which the selected symbols are to be moved.

Claim 9 is a so-called "means-plus-function" claim within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §112, sixth paragraph. As such, claim 9 ought to be "construed to cover the corresponding structure, material, or acts described in the specification and equivalents thereof," as provided in 35 U.S.C. §112, sixth paragraph. Agrawal is submitted to show no "symbol selecting means for selecting symbols to be moved and positions to which the selected symbols are to be moved," corresponding to structure, material, or acts described in the *present* specification, or equivalents thereof, as required by 35 U.S.C. §112, sixth paragraph. In Agrawal, rather, symbols are moved automatically, at random. In particular, as described at column 17, lines 55-59:

The segments that are chosen to be interchanged in the move between precincts are randomly chosen but must be within a move class. A move class is a group of segments assigned to precincts which are within a predefined distance from each other.

Since, in Agrawal, symbols are moved automatically, at random, Agrawal shows no "symbol selecting means for selecting symbols to be moved and positions to which the selected symbols are to be moved," corresponding to structure, material, or acts described in the *present* specification, or equivalents thereof, as recited in claim 9. Claim 9 is submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 9 is earnestly solicited.

Claims 11 and 12 depend from claim 9 and add further distinguishing elements. Claims 11 and 12 are thus also submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 11 and 12 is also earnestly solicited.

Allowable Subject Matter:

The Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

Conclusion:

Accordingly, in view of the reasons given above, it is submitted that all of claims 1-9, 11, 12, and 14 are allowable over the cited references. Allowance of all claims 1-9, 11, 12, and 14 and of this entire application is therefore respectfully requested.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date:

16 MAR 06

By:


Thomas E. McKiernan

Registration No. 37,889

1201 New York Ave, N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501